REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 78-99, 102-104, 113, 114, 116, 120-124, 127, 128, 131-137-140, 143 were pending. Claims 78, 113, 114, 123, 124 and 142 would be amended. Claims 1-77, 100-101, 105-112, 115, 117-119, 125-126, and 129-130 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 120, 131-135, 137 -139 and 141 are canceled herein without prejudice.

After entry of these amendments, claims 78-99, 102-104, 113, 114, 116, 121-124, 127, 128, 136, 140, 142 and 143 would be pending and presented for examination.

The present amendments correspond to those initially presented solely for discussion purposes via fax to Examiner Nichols on October 31, 2003. In addition, claim 142 has been amended to correct an antecedent basis and an obvious typo canceling claim 102 has been corrected.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his efforts.

Support for the Amendments

Claim 78 and 123 would be amended to recite in part

> a first peptidyl fragment of from 20 amino acids in length to 92 amino acids in length and having an amino acid sequence which is identical to an N-terminal amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 of the same length as the first peptidyl fragment or having an amino acid sequence which differs by one or two residues from the N-terminal sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 of the same length;

Support for the subject matter of a first peptidyl fragment at least 20 amino acids in length is found *inter alia* at p. 7, line 10. Support for a first peptidyl fragment of 92 amino acids in length is found at p. 10, line 3 which sets forth chaperone sequences of up to 200 amino acids in length and more particularly in the 92 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.2 (p.28)and SEQ ID No. 7

(p.30) which sets forth the 92 residue sequence of SEQ ID NO.2 as the leader sequence for its subject chimeric protein.

Support for the subject matter of differing from one or two residues from the N-terminal sequence of SEQ ID. No. 2 is found in the specification at p. 22, lines 26-29 and at p. 17, lines 21-35. With respect to written description, the specification further sets forth at p. 9 lines 30-34 some of the structural features of chaperone sequences.

Claims 78 and 123 would also be amended to recite "an arginine or lysine residue or the at least one cleavable peptidyl fragment." Support for this subject matter is found in the previous version of the claim. Additional amendments to the claim set forth the above recital as an antecedent.

Claim 113 would be amended to recite "wherein the amino acid sequence of the first peptidyl fragment is identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1." Support for this subject matter is found *inter alia* in the specification at p. 28 which sets for SEQ ID NO:1 and at p. 30 which sets forth SEQ ID NO:6.

Claim 114 would be amended to recite "wherein the amino acid sequence of the first peptidyl fragment is identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Support for this subject matter is found *inter alia* in the specification at p.28 which sets for SEQ ID NO:2 and at p. 30 which sets forth SEQ ID NO:7.

Claim 124 would be amended to recite "SEQ ID NO. 2" in place of "SEQ ID NO:1." Support for this subject matter is found *inter alia* at p. 28.

Claim 142 would be amended to recite "insulin precursor peptidyl fragment." Support for this subject matter is found in claim 123 which sets for the antecedent basis for this recital.

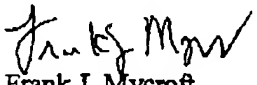
In view of the above, Applicants believe that the proposed amendments to the claims add no new matter and respectfully request their entry.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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